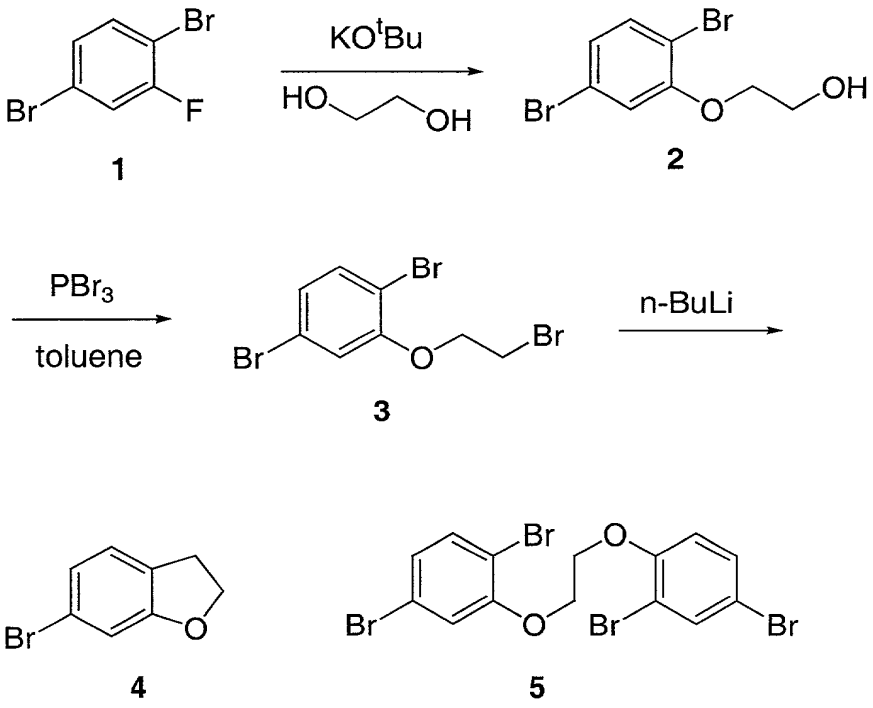
Each of the above substituents (alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclyl) can be optionally substituted with one to three substituents as set forth in the embodiments recited above.

Methods for preparing the compounds of the present invention are illustrated in the following schemes and examples.

The first step for preparing an endothelin receptor antagonist involves the synthesis of a top piece substituent (4), ArX (X is halo) through the formation of tribromo ether (3) followed by treatment with a base as shown in Reaction Scheme A.

REACTION SCHEME A



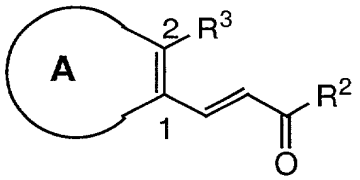
In Reaction Scheme A, ethylene glycol reacts with commercially available 1,4-dibromo-2-fluorobenzene (1) in the presence of potassium *tert*-butoxide to give the ether compound (2). The compound (2) is then converted to the tribromide (3) by treatment with a brominating agent (PBr_3) in an aprotic solvent such as toluene at a temperature between about 80°C and about 90°C. The intermediates (2) and (3) can be used without purification. A small amount of water and additional PBr_3 (10 mol%) may be added in the middle of the reaction to improve the conversion rate of the compound (3) into the product (4) as shown in Table 1 (entries 3 and 4). Treatment of the tribromide (3) with n-BuLi or phenyllithium affords the desired 6-bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (4), which crystallizes in a mixture of methanol and water. The by-product (5) formed in the reaction can be removed by filtration.

Table 1. Temperature Effect on the Bromination Reaction

entry	Temperature °C	% Conversion after 4 hours
1	25	46
2	80	90.5
3	90	92.6
4[a]	90	94.6

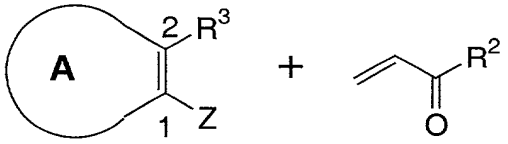
[a]0.29 mol% water and 10 mol% PBr_3 were added after 2 hours at 90°C

The α, β-unsaturated ester or amide

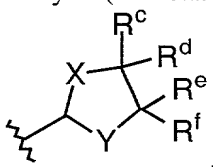


can generally be prepared in two steps:

1) a coupling reaction at the one position of ring A



wherein R^3 is CHO, Z is a leaving group such as Br, Cl, I, OTriflyl, OTosyl or Omesyl, and R^2 is OR^4 or $N(R^5)_2$; and

2) the conversion of the aldehyde (R^3=CHO) to the desired chiral auxiliary (R^3), wherein R^3 represents 

; X and Y are independently O, S, or NR^5; R^4 is $(C_1$-$C_8)$-alkyl; R^5 is $(C_1$-$C_8)$-alkyl or aryl; R^c, R^d, R^e and R^f are independently H, $(C_1$-$C_8)$-alkyl or aryl such that either R^c and R^d are not the same or R^e and R^f are not the same, or R^c and R^e or R^d and R^f can join to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, which is optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected